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Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOUR MARYLAND SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS AWARDED NEARLY \$1 MILLION TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS

FUNDS WILL SUPPORT EXPANDED CAPACITY FOR STUDENT ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

BALTIMORE (July 14, 2011)—School-based health center (SBHC) programs managed by Baltimore County Health Department, Choptank Community Health System, Dorchester County Health Department, and Montgomery County today were awarded \$934,435 in federal grant funds to boost their efforts.

The grants were made through a \$95 million program administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which awarded federal grants to 278 SBHC programs across the country. The funds support expanded capacity of SBHCs and are available for construction, renovation, and equipment needs.

“School-based health centers provide critical services to some of our most vulnerable young people,” said Interim State Superintendent of Schools Bernard Sadusky. “We know the connection that good health has to student learning, and these funds will help strengthen our efforts to provide important services to students.”

“Routine health care is needed to keep young bodies healthy and learning,” said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. “With this grant, we will continue to provide these important primary care services to our children.”

Maryland’s 68 SBHCs provide comprehensive annual and sports physicals, immunizations, treatment of acute illnesses, chronic disease management, behavioral health, oral health, nutrition and health counseling. Parents/guardians enroll their students in the SBHC programs. In school year 2009-2010, Maryland’s SBHCs had 80,595 health visits serving 15,717 students.

Maryland’s SBHCs are funded by a variety of sources, which demonstrates the collaborative endorsement these centers receive. In FY 2011, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) distributed over \$2.7 million in grant support to SBHCs.

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Other sources of funding include federal, local health departments and education agencies, private health care organizations, as well as in-kind contributions from local school systems and health departments.

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